MRC RESEARCH ON ZANGO

By Nachiketa Thakur

http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2006/11/zango.shtm
http://www.vitalsecurity.org/2006/11/zango-ftc-andlicat.html
http://www.vitalsecurity.org/2006/11/trojan-serves-up-zango-videos-another.html
http://www.vitalsecurity.org/2006/11/presenting-zangozones.html
http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=689
http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:Gr4RALZ0KsMJ:www.vitalsecurity.org/2006/09/fake-video-webmaster-is-also-pushing.html+zango+paris+hilton+video&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=au

On 3rd **November 2006 Zango** had a settlement with FTC (Federal Trade Commission). Zango's had the following obligations to fulfill under the proposed settlement:

1) Prohibited from using "any legacy program to display any advertisement to, or otherwise communicate with, a consumer's computer."

2) Prohibited from (directly or via third parties) "exploiting" a security vulnerability ... to download or install onto any computer any software code, program, or content."

3) Prohibited from installing software onto users' computers without "express consent." **Obtaining "express consent" requires "clearly and prominently disclos[ing] the material terms of such software program or application prior to the display of, and separate from, any final end user license agreement."**

4) Required to "**provide a reasonable and effective means for consumers to uninstall the software or application**," through a computers' Add/Remove utility.

5) Required to **"clearly and prominently" label each advertisement it displays.**

EXHIBIT
3

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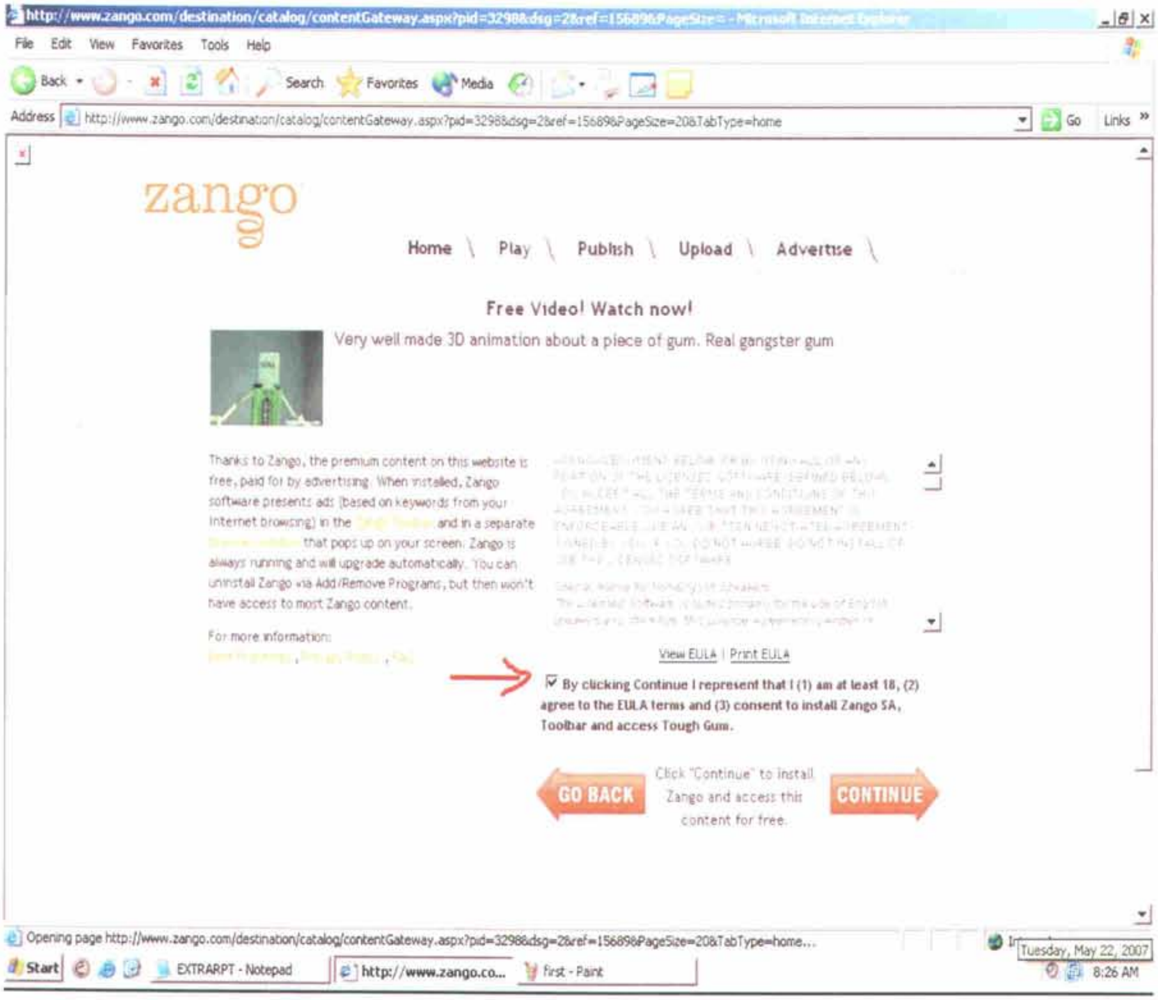
Dockets.Justia.com

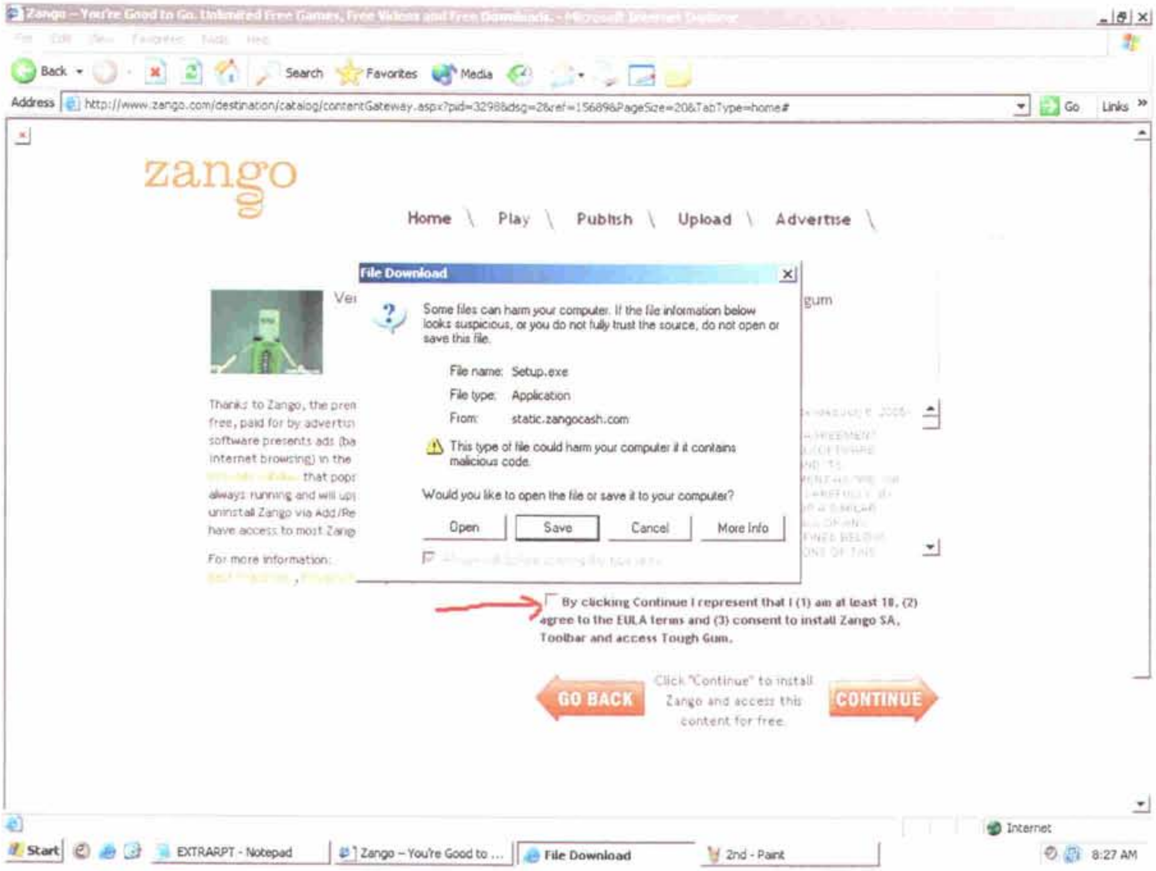
ZANGO INSTALLATION


http://www.zango.com/destination/catalog/contentGateway.aspx?pid=3298&dsg=2&ref=15689&PageSize=
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address http://www.zango.com/destination/catalog/contentGateway.aspx?pid=3298&dsg=2&ref=15689&PageSize=20&TabType=home
Go Links
zango
Home Play Publish Upload Advertise
Free Video! Watch now!
Very well made 3D animation about a piece of gum. Real gangster gum
Thanks to Zango, the premium content on this website is free, paid for by advertising. When installed, Zango software presents ads (based on keywords from your Internet browsing) in the and in a separate that pops up on your screen. Zango is always running and will upgrade automatically. You can uninstall Zango via Add/Remove Programs, but then won't have access to most Zango content.
For more information:
View EULA | Print EULA
By clicking Continue I represent that I (1) am at least 18, (2) agree to the EULA terms and (3) consent to install Zango SA, Toolbar and access Tough Gum.
GO BACK
Click "Continue" to install Zango and access this content for free.
CONTINUE
Opening page http://www.zango.com/destination/catalog/contentGateway.aspx?pid=3298&dsg=2&ref=15689&PageSize=20&TabType=home...
Start
EXTRARPT - Notepad
http://www.zango.co...
first - Paint
Tuesday, May 22, 2007
8:26 AM

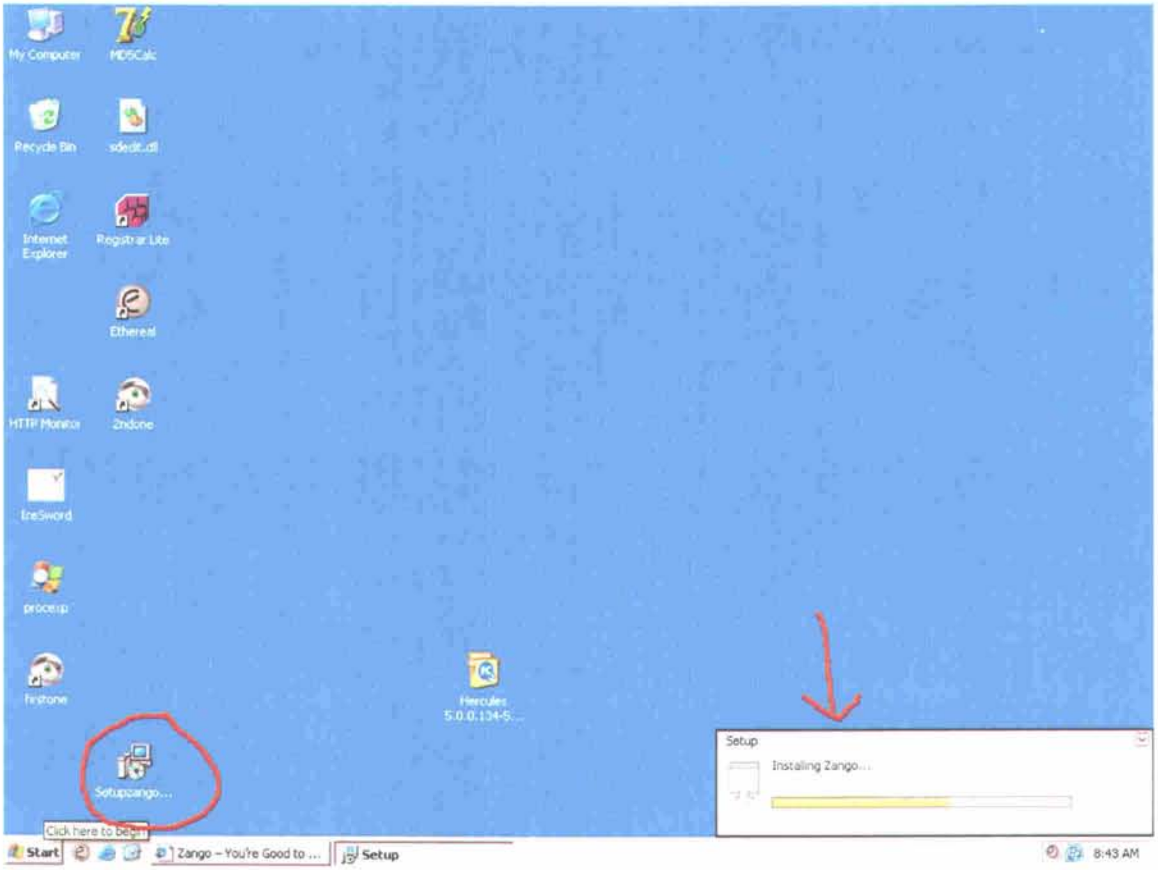
This snapshot has been taken directly from their website. Note the box is already ticked and now have a look at the following snapshot.

Zango – You're Good to Go. Unlimited Free Games, Free Videos and Free Downloads. - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address
Go Links
zango
Home Play Publish Upload Advertise
Free Video! Watch now!
Very well made 3D animation about a piece of gum. Real gangster gum
Thanks to Zango, the premium content on this website is free, paid for by advertising. When installed, Zango software presents ads (based on keywords from your Internet browsing) in the and in a separate that pops up on your screen. Zango is always running and will upgrade automatically. You can uninstall Zango via Add/Remove Programs, but then won't have access to most Zango content.
For more information:
View EULA | Print EULA
By clicking Continue I represent that I (1) am at least 18, (2) agree to the EULA terms and (3) consent to install Zango SA, Toolbar and access Tough Gum.
GO BACK
Click "Continue" to install Zango and access this content for free.
CONTINUE
Done
Start
EXTRARPT - Notepad
Zango – You're Good ...
Tuesday, May 22, 2007
8:25 AM

Note I have unchecked the box which means I do not consent for the EULA. Now I click on the continue button just to proceed from this page.

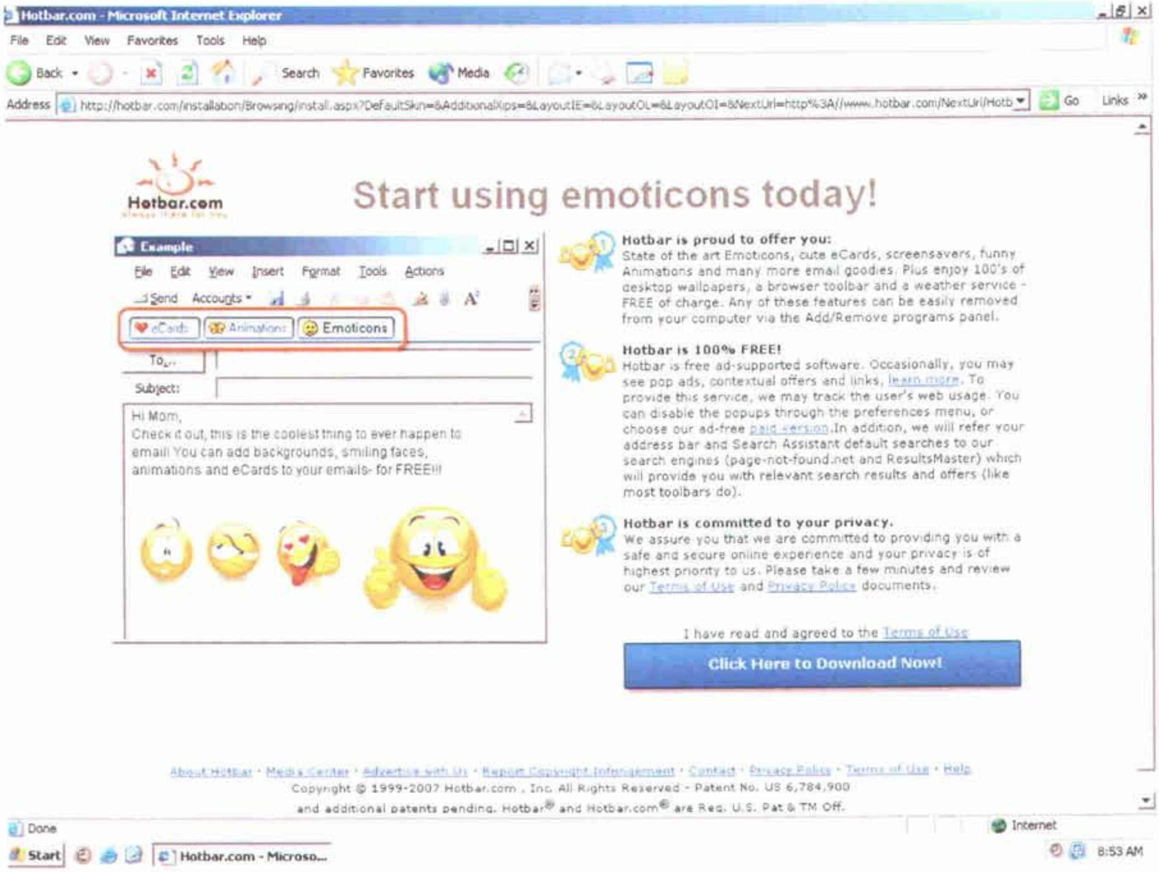

Back
Search
Favorites
Media
Address
http://www.zango.com/destination/catalog/contentGateway.aspx?pid=3298&dsg=2&ref=15689&PageSize=20&TabType=home#
Go
Links
zango
Home
Play
Publish
Upload
Advertise
File Download
Some files can harm your computer. If the file information below looks suspicious, or you do not fully trust the source, do not open or save this file.
File name: Setup.exe
File type: Application
From: static.zangocash.com
This type of file could harm your computer if it contains malicious code.
Would you like to open the file or save it to your computer?
Open
Save
Cancel
More Info
By clicking Continue I represent that I (1) am at least 18, (2) agree to the EULA terms and (3) consent to install Zango SA, Toolbar and access Tough Gum.
GO BACK
Click "Continue" to install Zango and access this content for free.
CONTINUE
Internet
Start
EXTRARPT - Notepad
Zango – You're Good to ...
File Download
2nd - Paint
8:27 AM

Even though I disapproved that I am at least 18 years old and I also disapproved the EULA, I got the installer from their website. This behavior is dodgy and is in violation to the FTC agreement (refer to the 3rd point).

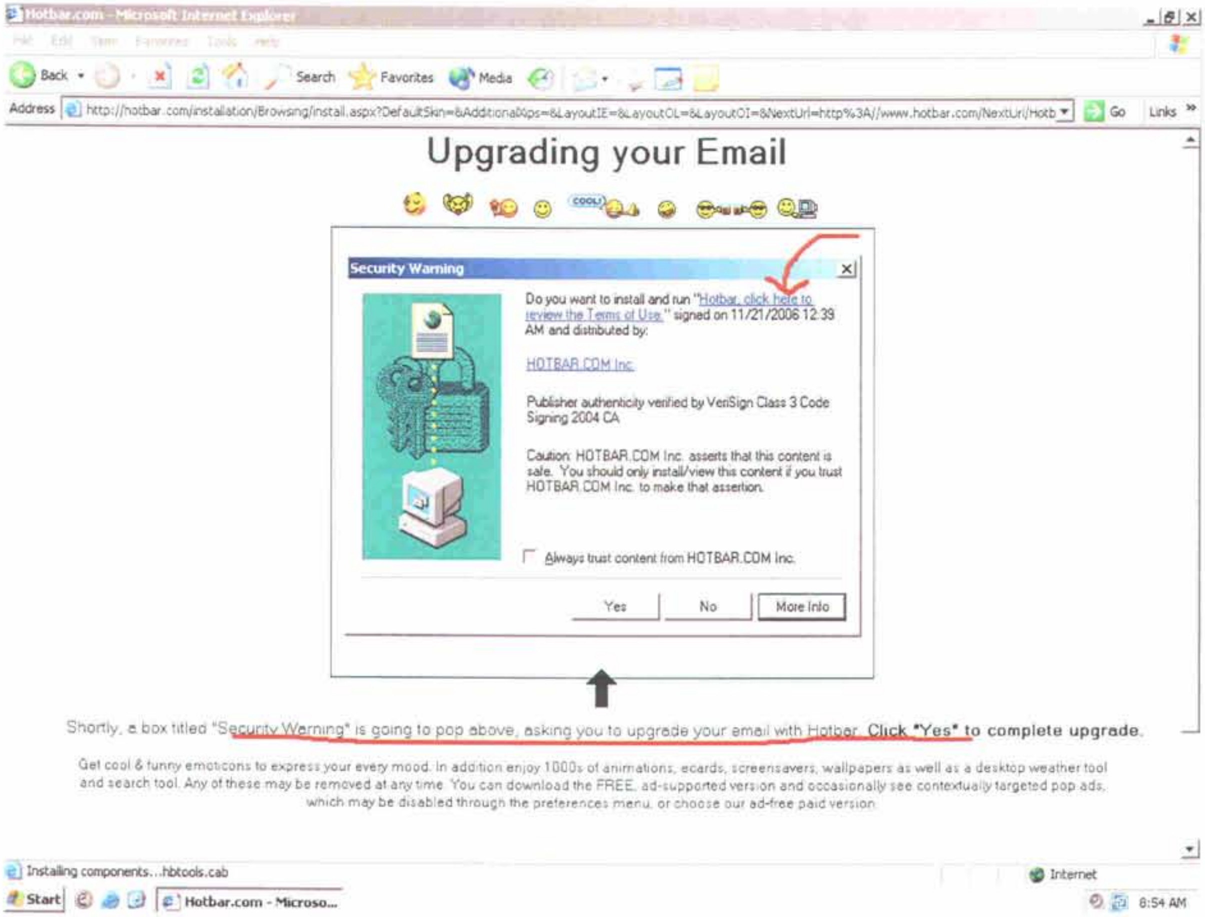

My Computer
MD5Calc
Recycle Bin
sdedit.dll
Internet Explorer
Registrar Lite
Ethereal
HTTP Monitor
2ndone
IeSword
procexp
firstone
Hercules 5.0.0.134-5...
Setupzango...
Setup
Installing Zango...
Click here to begin
Start
Zango – You're Good to ...
Setup
8:43 AM

I have encircled the downloaded installer. As you can see once when you execute the installer it should ask for consent which it never asks and there is no way now that you can stop the zango installation (no cancel button to stop installation).

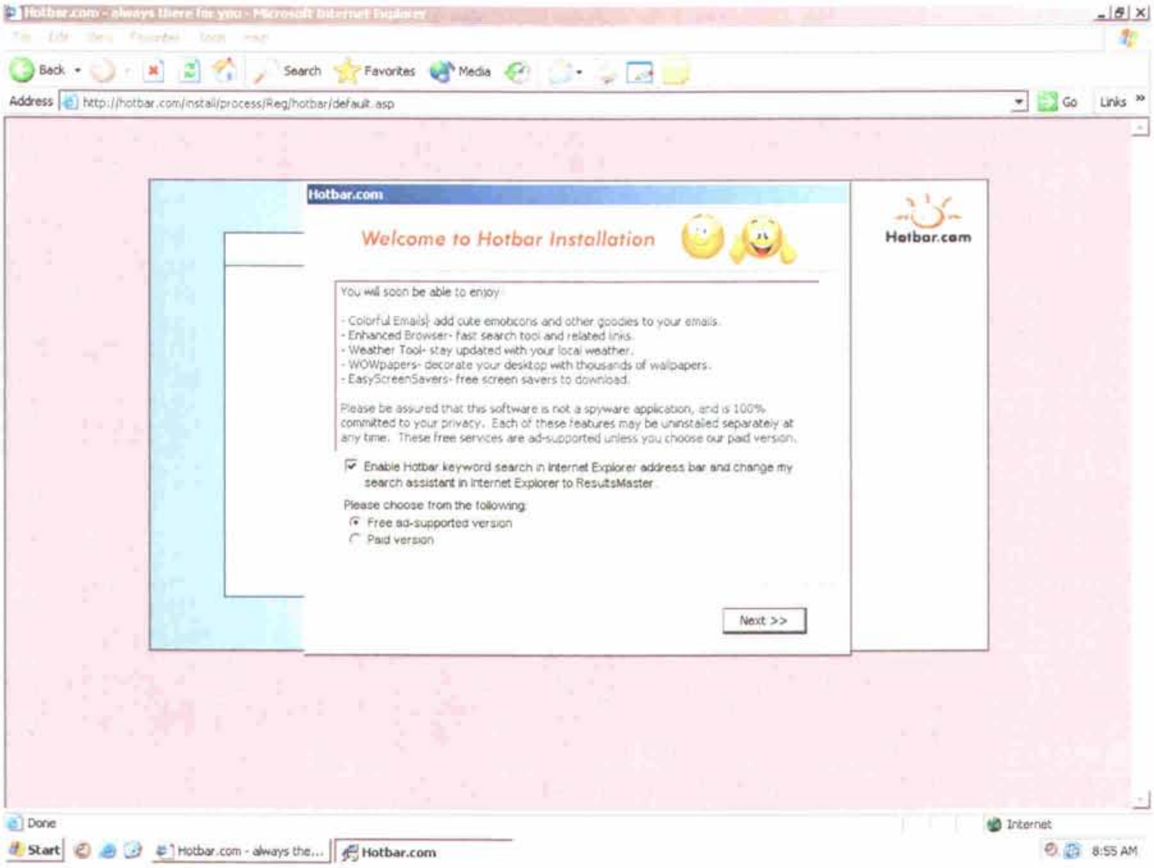
HOTBAR INSTALLATION


Hotbar.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites Media
Address
Go Links
Hotbar.com
Start using emoticons today!
Example
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Actions
Send Accounts
eCards Animations Emoticons
To...
Subject:
Hi Mom,
Check it out, this is the coolest thing to ever happen to email! You can add backgrounds, smiling faces, animations and eCards to your emails- for FREE!!!
Hotbar is proud to offer you:
State of the art Emoticons, cute eCards, screensavers, funny Animations and many more email goodies. Plus enjoy 100's of desktop wallpapers, a browser toolbar and a weather service - FREE of charge. Any of these features can be easily removed from your computer via the Add/Remove programs panel.
Hotbar is 100% FREE!
Hotbar is free ad-supported software. Occasionally, you may see pop ads, contextual offers and links, learn more. To provide this service, we may track the user's web usage. You can disable the popups through the preferences menu, or choose our ad-free paid version. In addition, we will refer your address bar and Search Assistant default searches to our search engines (page-not-found.net and ResultsMaster) which will provide you with relevant search results and offers (like most toolbars do).
Hotbar is committed to your privacy.
We assure you that we are committed to providing you with a safe and secure online experience and your privacy is of highest priority to us. Please take a few minutes and review our Terms of Use and Privacy Policy documents.
I have read and agreed to the Terms of Use
Click Here to Download Now!
Copyright © 1999-2007 Hotbar.com , Inc. All Rights Reserved - Patent No. US 6,784,900 and additional patents pending. Hotbar® and Hotbar.com® are Reg. U.S. Pat & TM Off.
Done
Internet
Start
Hotbar.com - Microso...
8:53 AM

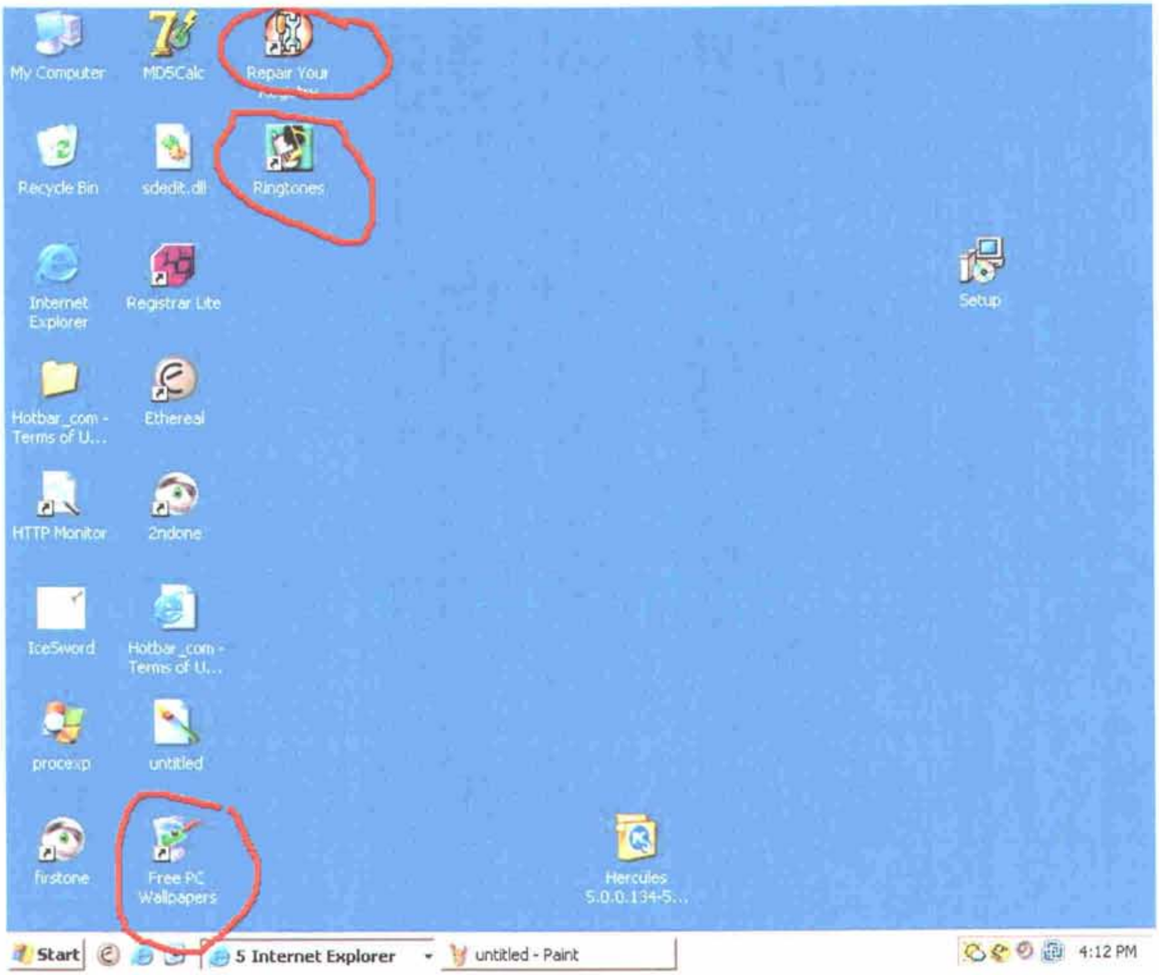
This is from hotbar.com, just click on download and you will get the following on your screen.


Hotbar.com - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Back
Search
Favorites
Media
Address
http://hotbar.com/installation/Browsing/install.aspx?DefaultSkin=&AdditionalApps=&LayoutIE=&LayoutOL=&LayoutOI=&NextUrl=http%3A//www.hotbar.com/NextUrl/Hotb
Go
Links
Upgrading your Email
Security Warning
Do you want to install and run "Hotbar, click here to review the Terms of Use" signed on 11/21/2006 12:39 AM and distributed by:
HOTBAR.COM Inc.
Publisher authenticity verified by VeriSign Class 3 Code Signing 2004 CA
Caution: HOTBAR.COM Inc. asserts that this content is safe. You should only install/view this content if you trust HOTBAR.COM Inc. to make that assertion.
Always trust content from HOTBAR.COM Inc.
Yes
No
More Info
Shortly, a box titled "Security Warning" is going to pop above, asking you to upgrade your email with Hotbar. Click "Yes" to complete upgrade.
Get cool & funny emoticons to express your every mood. In addition enjoy 1000s of animations, ecards, screensavers, wallpapers as well as a desktop weather tool and search tool. Any of these may be removed at any time. You can download the FREE, ad-supported version and occasionally see contextually targeted pop ads, which may be disabled through the preferences menu, or choose our ad-free paid version.
Installing components...hbtools.cab
Internet
Start
Hotbar.com - Microso...
8:54 AM

Again see the 3rd point in the FTC agreement which states about "**express consent**". Well can't see any express consent thing or not even a clear way to look at the EULA. This type of installation is definitely is not right.


Hotbar.com - always there for you - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Back
Search
Favorites
Media
Address
http://hotbar.com/install/process/Reg/hotbar/default.asp
Go
Links
Hotbar.com
Welcome to Hotbar Installation
Hotbar.com
You will soon be able to enjoy:
- Colorful Emails- add cute emoticons and other goodies to your emails.
- Enhanced Browser- fast search tool and related links.
- Weather Tool- stay updated with your local weather.
- WOWpapers- decorate your desktop with thousands of wallpapers.
- EasyScreenSavers- free screen savers to download.
Please be assured that this software is not a spyware application, and is 100% committed to your privacy. Each of these features may be uninstalled separately at any time. These free services are ad-supported unless you choose our paid version.
Enable Hotbar keyword search in Internet Explorer address bar and change my search assistant in Internet Explorer to ResultsMaster
Please choose from the following:
Free ad-supported version
Paid version
Next >>
Done
Internet
Start
Hotbar.com - always the...
Hotbar.com
8:55 AM

Last step before installation and no information about what is being installed.

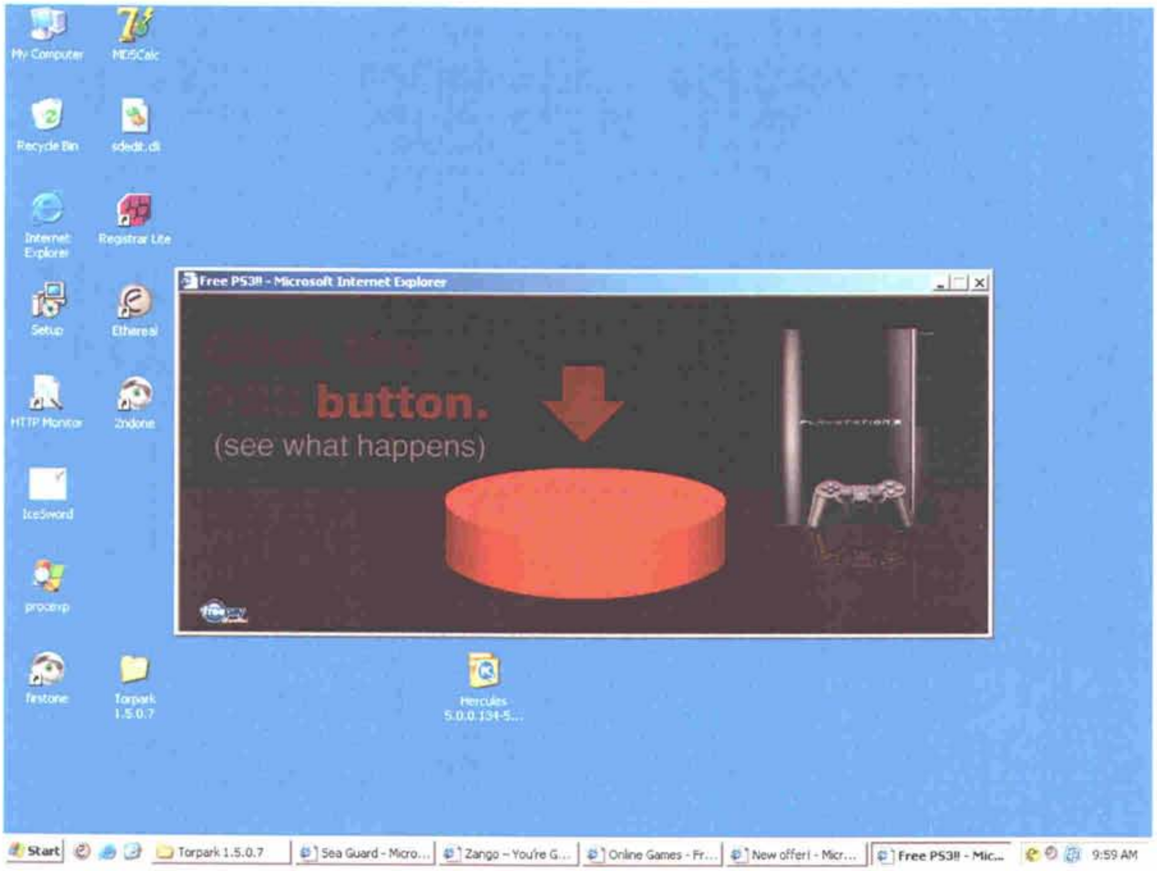

My Computer
MD5Calc
Repair Your
Recycle Bin
sdedit.dll
Ringtones
Internet Explorer
Registrar Lite
Setup
Hotbar_com - Terms of U...
Ethereal
HTTP Monitor
2ndone
IceSword
Hotbar_com - Terms of U...
procexp
untitled
firstone
Free PC Wallpapers
Hercules 5.0.0.134-5...
Start
5 Internet Explorer
untitled - Paint
4:12 PM

Look what you got on the desktop. No one asked for them and there was no information as this will happen. Well if you double click these shortcuts it will take to the following websites:

http://www.wowpapers.com/
http://www1.rockyourtones.com/

Both of them are listed adware sites and they drop more stuff on your pc.

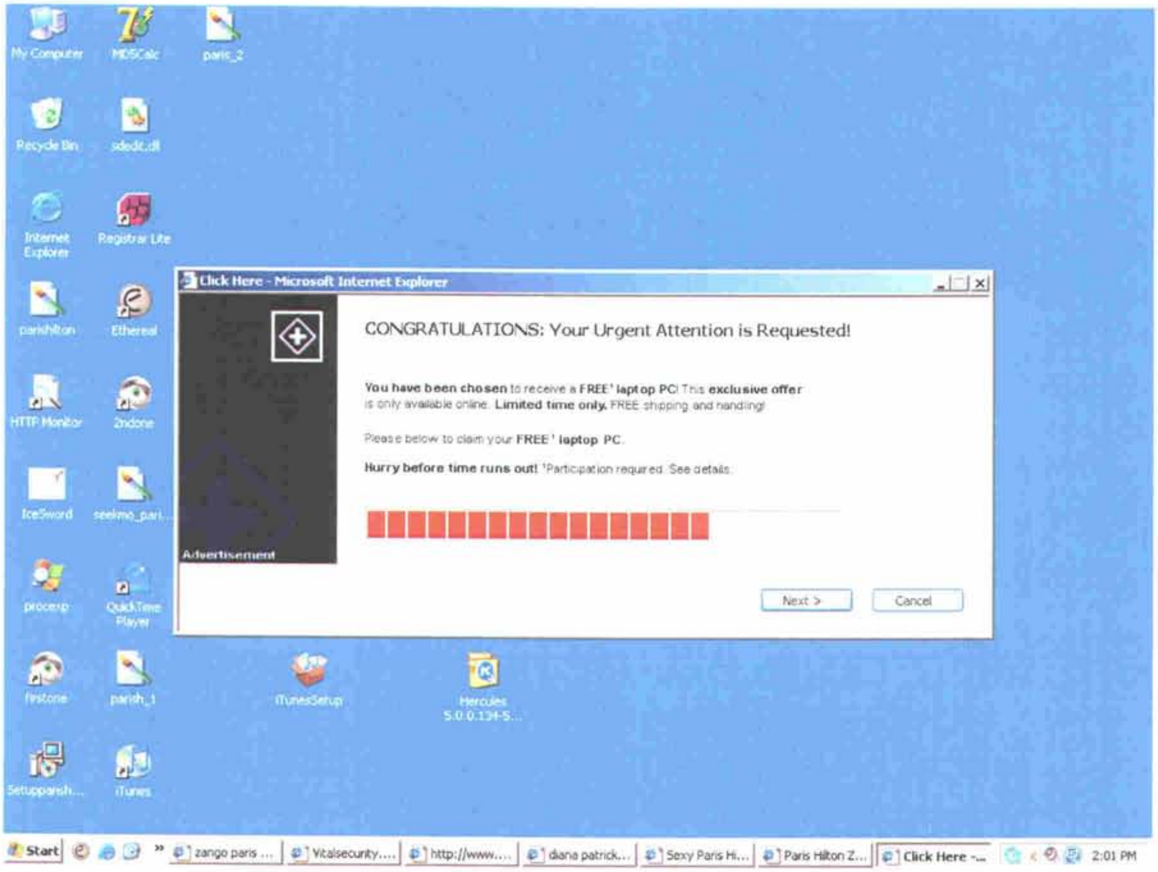
ZANGO ADVERTISEMENTS


Free PS3!! - Microsoft Internet Explorer
button.
(see what happens)
My Computer
MD5Calc
Recycle Bin
sdedit.dll
Internet Explorer
Registrar Lite
Setup
Ethereal
HTTP Monitor
2ndone
IceSword
procexp
firstone
Torpark 1.5.0.7
Start
Torpark 1.5.0.7
Sea Guard - Micro...
Zango -- You're G...
Online Games - Fr...
New offer! - Micr...
Free PS3!! - Mic...
9:59 AM

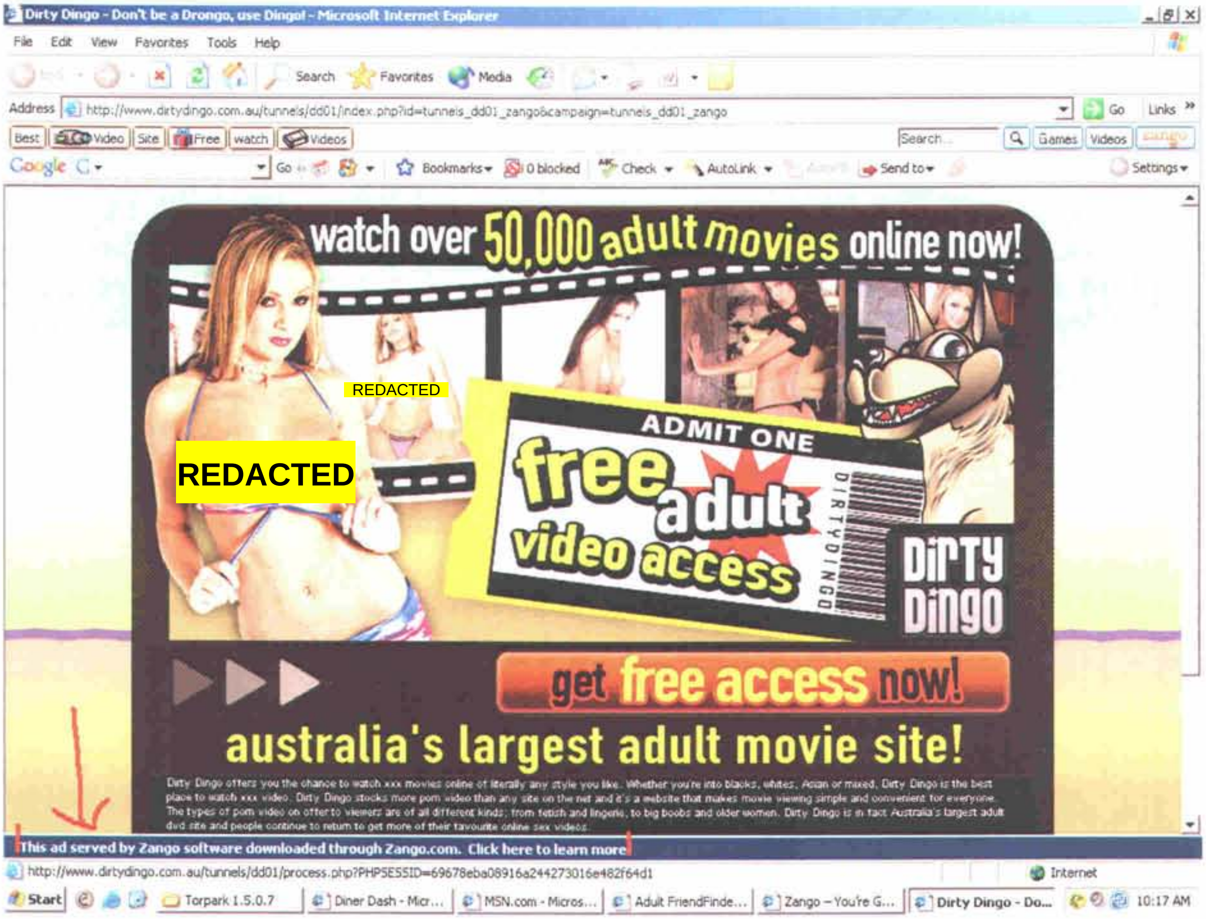
See the 5th point in the FTC agreement which states about **"clearly and prominently" labeling each advertisement it displays.** But nothing on this one.

My Computer
MD5Calc
Recycle Bin
sdedit.dll
Internet Explorer
Registrar Lite
New offer! - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Hit the target to get a FREE video iPod!
Setup
Ethereal
HTTP Monitor
2ndone
IceSword
procexp
firstone
Torpark 1.5.0.7
Hercules 5.0.0.134-5...
add1
Start
Torpark 1.5.0.7
Sea Guard - Micro...
Zango -- You're G...
Online Games - Fr...
New offer! - Mic...
Free PS3!! - Micro...
10:00 AM

Again no indication as who is popping them up.


My Computer
MD5Calc
paris_2
Recycle Bin
Internet Explorer
Registrar Lite
parishilton
Ethereal
HTTP Monitor
2ndone
IceSword
procexp
QuickTime Player
firstone
parish_1
iTunesSetup
iTunes
Click Here - Microsoft Internet Explorer
CONGRATULATIONS: Your Urgent Attention is Requested!
You have been chosen to receive a FREE¹ laptop PC! This exclusive offer
is only available online. Limited time only. FREE shipping and handling!
Please below to claim your FREE¹ laptop PC.
Hurry before time runs out! ¹Participation required. See details.
Advertisement
Next >
Cancel
Start
zango paris ...
Vitalsecurity....
http://www....
diana patrick...
Sexy Paris Hi...
Paris Hilton Z...
Click Here -...
2:01 PM

Where that come from, definitely deceptive.


Dirty Dingo - Don't be a Drongo, use Dingo! - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Search Favorites Media
Address http://www.dirtydingo.com.au/tunnels/dd01/index.php?id=tunnels_dd01_zango&campaign=tunnels_dd01_zango
Go Links
watch over 50,000 adult movies online now!
REDACTED
REDACTED
ADMIT ONE
free adult video access
DIRTYDINGO
DiRTY DiNGO
get free access now!
australia's largest adult movie site!
Dirty Dingo offers you the chance to watch xxx movies online of literally any style you like. Whether you're into blacks, whites, Asian or mixed, Dirty Dingo is the best place to watch xxx video. Dirty Dingo stocks more porn video than any site on the net and it's a website that makes movie viewing simple and convenient for everyone. The types of porn video on offer to viewers are of all different kinds; from fetish and lingerie, to big boobs and older women. Dirty Dingo is in fact Australia's largest adult dvd site and people continue to return to get more of their favourite online sex videos.
This ad served by Zango software downloaded through Zango.com. Click here to learn more
http://www.dirtydingo.com.au/tunnels/dd01/process.php?PHPSESSID=69678eba08916a244273016e482f64d1
Internet
Start
Torpark 1.5.0.7
Diner Dash - Micr...
MSN.com - Micros...
Adult FriendFinde...
Zango – You're G...
Dirty Dingo - Do...
10:17 AM

Yep for this one indeed they have mentioned their name. But this means that I can access porn even without consenting that I am at least 18 years old. (thanks to zango)

ZANGO'S EULA

This has been copied from zango's License Agreement:

Display of Advertising.
The Search Assistant Licensed Software starts automatically when you start your computer, runs in the background on your computer, displays an icon in your system tray while running, and may periodically direct you to our sponsors' websites. By installing and/or using the Search Assistant Licensed Software you grant permission for Zango to periodically **display sponsors' websites** to you. The frequency of these advertisements (which will pop up on your screen in a separate browser) will be limited, but will vary depending on your use of the Internet. To see a representative example of an advertisement that may be displayed, go to http://www.zango.com/destination/corporate/examples.htm, which is incorporated herein by reference. Please note that you may receive **Adult-oriented ads** if you utilize keywords connected to, search for or view Adult websites. On occasion, you may search for a website and receive an error from your browser software indicating that the site cannot be found. When this occurs, the Search Assistant Licensed Software includes a function that may redirect your web browser to our sponsor's websites based on the content of the website address, or URL, which you entered. You hereby consent to these actions. Content that is **"Adult"** is defined as any audio, video, audiovisual, images, sounds or text that contain or reference any of the following: profanity, crude or off-color humor, violence, blood and gore, weapons, use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or other controlled substances, online gambling, pornography, erotica, erotic images, nudity, sex, sexually explicit images, and sexual references. If you are using Microsoft Internet Explorer, you can utilize its Content Advisor feature to restrict certain types of sites and advertisements, including Adult ones, from opening in your browser. Specifically, please follow the following steps: 1. In Internet Explorer, select Tools/Internet Options; 2. Select the Content tab; 3. Select either Enable to turn on this feature and adjust the settings or Settings (if the feature is already enabled) to adjust your settings; 4. Customize your settings under each of the available tabs.

Updates. Zango, in its sole discretion, may provide you with Updates to the Licensed Software as part of this Agreement. The Licensed Software will check with Zango for the existence of any Update that Zango has released, and in the event that one is available, the Licensed Software **will update itself automatically**. Nothing herein shall be construed or interpreted as requiring that Zango provide Updates. Zango will not install any new software or Update that in our reasonable judgment has functionality that is materially different from the functionality of the previously installed Licensed Software without your prior consent.

What comes out of Zango's EULA?

- ✓ Zango gives free software's in return for advertisements based on user behaviour which may contain adult material.
- ✓ Zango can update its software without informing the user.
- ✓ Zango starts running when you start your pc(infact zango is always running when your machine is on)
- ✓ Zango can be uninstalled from Add/Remove programs.

PCTools is an Anti-Spyware and Anti-Adware company therefore reserve's the right to detect such type of programs even though they declare everything in their license agreement. The same goes for keyloggers and we detect them regardless of what they say in their license agreement. An Adware program is an adware program and we have to detect it.

As far as Zango is concerned its behavior is still dodgy. Installation process is not exactly correct and uninstall still leaves registry entries on user's machine. Updating software without informing the user is something which neither Pctools nor Microsoft does with their software's.